

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076935

FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT HAVANA 0748 ACTION USUN NY INFO SECSTATE 21 MAR 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0748

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG PINR CU

SUBJECT: NEW CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO UN

1. I PAID COURTESY CALL MARCH 20 ON RAUL ROA DOURI, NEWLY DESIGNATED CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO UN. ROA, WHO IS SON OF FORMER CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER, WILL DEPART FOR NEW YORK IN EARLY APRIL TO ASSUME HIS NEW DUTIES.

2. ROA PROJECTED AN AIR OF MODERATION IN TOUR D'HORIZON COVERING SUCH TOPICS AS AFRICA, PUERTO RICO, NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS, ALTHOUGH HE OF COURSE ADDUCED IN EACH CASE THE STANDARD CUBAN LINE. ROA SEEMED TO AGREE FULLY WITH MY COMMENT THAT INCREASED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN OUR DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK HAD BEEN USEFUL AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED. (HE SPOKE CONFIDENTIAL

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FAVORABLY OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES IN SEVERAL AREAS, AND OF YOUR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS TO A NEW US IMAGE.)

3. ON THE THEORY THAT ANY CHANGE IN CUBAN AMBASSADORS AT UN (AFTER ALARCON) CAN ONLY BE FOR THE BETTER, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT MUCH, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO SEE ROA AT AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE ANY OPENINGS FOR IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AT

UN.

4. ROA LIVED IN NEW YORK FOR SEVERAL YEARS DURING WORLD WAR II WHILE HIS FATHER (A RADICAL, BUT NOT THEN COMMUNIST LAW PROFESSOR) WAS A GUGGENHEIM SCHOLAR. THE YOUNGER ROA, KNOWN TO HIS FRIENDS AS "RAULITO", IS ONE OF THE FEW GRADUATES OF THE ELITE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL KNOWN AS RUSTON ACADEMY WHO REMAINED IN CUBA AFTER THE REVOLUTION. FROM 1958 TO 1960 HE ATTENDED COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDYING SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY. HIS UNDERGRADUATE TRAINING WAS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE REVOLUTION HE ATTENDED SESSIONS OF THE UN SECOND COMMITTEE AS PART OF CUBAN DELEGATION.

5. IN PAST TWO YEARS, ROA HAS SERVED AS ONE OF FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS TO VICE PRESIDENT AND MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, WHO IS HIMSELF THE PRINCIPAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER TO CASTRO. PRIOR TO THAT ROA WAS SECRETARY OF OFFICE CHARGED WITH COORDINATING CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES OF COMECON. HIS NEW POST MARKS HIS APPARENTLY COMPLETE REHABILITATION FROM AN EARLIER SOJOURN IN THE POLITICAL WILDERNESS AS A RESULT, SO THE STORY GOES, OF UNDECOROUS HIGH LIVING AND UNWISE COCKTAIL PARTY GIBES WHICH DISPLEASED CASTRO.

6. ROA IS TRAVELING TO NEW YORK WITH HIS WIFE, A YOUNG WOMAN OF SERIOUS DEMEANOR WHO HAS BEEN A WRITER FOR THE CUBAN JOURNAL BOHEMIA. JUDGING FROM THEIR INITIAL VISA APPLICATIONS, THE ROAS
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ARE APPARENTLY LEAVING THEIR CHILD BEHIND IN CUBA, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.
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